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BULLETIN

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BREEDING AT KISUMU HERONRY 1982

The Kisumu Heronry, located some 7 km east of Kisumu and close to Lake Victoria, is nowadays a well defined, barbed wire enclosure of a square piece of forest, which seems to be respected by the neighbouring inhabitants. It is used all the year round by roosting birds, but is most intensively used during the breeding season which is from March to July.

Ten species of birds were recorded nesting there during 1982 with a total of 1570 pairs. Thus the protection of Kisumu Heronry is well established. Breeding species recorded were: Long-tailed Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, Yellow-billed Egret, Black-headed Heron, Open-billed Stork, Yellow-billed Stork, Sacred Ibis, Hadada Ibis and African Spoonbill.

During 1982 I followed the development of the heronry throughout the breeding season except at the end of the season in July when it is next to impossible to reach it, as the whole area is heavily flooded at that time of the year.

The Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus* bred this year with about 125 pairs from May to July.

The Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis* was numerous with around 500 pairs breeding from May to July.

The Great White Egret *Egretta alba* was there with 25 pairs breeding from May to July.

The Yellow-billed Egret *Egretta intermedia* was there with 35 pairs breeding also from May to July.

The Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* had a longer breeding season with many pairs already present in March, although the main part of the 150 pairs first started their breeding in May to continue until June and into July.

The Open-bill Stork *Anastomus lamelligerus* was represented by 75 pairs who bred from May to July.

The Yellow-billed Stork *Ibis ibis* was breeding, with early starters in March and continued until July a total of 100 pairs bred.

The Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* had an impressive colony of 500 pairs which were concentrated in just a few trees and continued breeding from April to June.

The Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* was breeding from April to June with 10 pairs.

The African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* was breeding with 50 pairs nesting from May to July.

Hans Swegen, Sothönsgränd 123 49 Farsta, Sweden.

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EANHS FUNCTIONS

Enclosed is a questionnaire regarding the optimum time of indoor functions of the Society. PLEASE complete and return to the Functions Organizer, Box 44486, Nairobi as soon as possible.

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THE HOUSE SPARROW IN KENYA

The House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* probably originated in the wooded grasslands of western Asia and in the regions bordering the Mediterranean Sea (Grzimek 1968), where they began living in man-made habitats e.g. in agricultural villages. As villages spread throughout most of Europe and Asia, so did the House Sparrow. In the 1800's it was introduced to North America, where it has now spread everywhere south of *c.* 60°N, through Central America and into most of South America. It was also introduced to the eastern half of Australia and to various parts of sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa, Somalia and, in Kenya, to Mombasa.

It was scarce in Mombasa for more than half a century, and gradually began increasing in numbers around 1979 until it became a pest. In 1980, several were recorded at Mariakani (*c.* 30 km inland from Mombasa along the Nairobi - Mombasa road, the A109) and since 1982 it has been recorded at Waa and in the hotel strip at Diani Beach (*c.* 15 and 30 km respectively, south of Mombasa on the A14), at Malindi (J. Goodhart pers. comm. and *Museum Avifauna News* 1983 No.3, and Lewis 1983 a & b), at Voi (*c.* 140 km inland along the A109) and at Mtito Andei (unconfirmed record East African Bird Report 1983, and pers. obs.).

On June 24, 1984, I saw 9 House Sparrows at Mtito Andei: at least 3 males and 2 females among them. The males seemed to be searching for nesting sites on the block of buildings closest to Nairobi on the right-hand side of the road coming into the town (these buildings include the Okay Safari Lodge, Divo Crafts and Curios Shop and the Post Office), while the females were feeding by the roadside next to the buildings. Previously, there had been an unconfirmed record for Mtito Andei and on December 23, 1983 a pair was seen by J. Mulder (East African Bird Report 1983).

Throughout its distribution in Kenya, the House Sparrow is sympatric with the Grey-headed Sparrow *P. griseus* but there does not seem to be any direct competition. It is slightly smaller overall but plumper than the Grey-headed Sparrow, more in shape like a Rufous Sparrow *P. motitensis* and males have extensive black 'bibs', very similar to those of male Somali Sparrows *P. castanopterus*, and mostly dark chestnut crowns and napes (ssp. *indicus*). Females mostly resemble Yellow-spotted Petronias *Petronia pyrgita* (and even more so the Yellow-throated Petronia *P. superciliaris* of Tanzania, Central and South Africa), but are very much paler than *P. pyrgita*, lack the yellow throat 'spot' usually visible in both Petronias and have heavily streaked backs.

As House Sparrows are great followers of civilization, it seems likely that they will move further inland from Mombasa, and since they can thrive at high altitudes (e.g. in Mexico City, 2 240 metres a.s.l.), to Nairobi and perhaps even further along the more densely populated regions. If they reach Nairobi, they will probably become the dominant species of bird there, even more abundant than Black Kites *Milvus migrans*, and will create direct competition with the closely related Rufous Sparrow and various other species. Being more adaptable to man-made habitats than the Rufous Sparrow, they may well cause a decline in the numbers of that species in the areas where they will be sympatric.

It seems likely that House Sparrows will reach Nairobi around the year 2000 if the rate at which it has extended its range inland since 1979 remains the same. Therefore, it would be good if a way could be found to stop this unwanted advance.

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Héctor Gómez de Silva, Box 47074, Nairobi.

SNAKES IN KAJIADO

I never deliberately set out to look for snakes, but they have thrust themselves upon my attention from time to time. Road kills provide the best source of specimens, and they are safe though not always pleasant to handle. (Polythene bags are highly recommended.) I and my field assistants have also encountered a number of live snakes when working in the bush. My list is certainly very far from complete.

Our commonest large snake is the very poisonous Puff Adder *Bitis arietans*. In the rainy season when driving after dark I often saw puff adders crossing the road, some of them being well over a meter long.

Larger still but much rarer is the Egyptian Cobra *Naja haje*. One that was killed in a neighbour's kitchen in October 1978 was 206 cm long. Another very large one was recovered as a road kill near Bissel (20 km south of Kajiado) in February 1980

The commonest of the smaller snakes is the Brown House-snake *Boaedon fuliginosus*. This species, and also the Garter Snake *Elapsoidea sundevallii* (dark grey with broad white bands across) and the Wolf Snake *Lycophidon capense* (plain grey) had the uncomfortable habit of moving in to the hole overnight when we were digging out a termite nest. While digging in the garden I often unearthed Centipede-eaters *Aparallactus lunnatus*, which are small, slender, dove-grey snakes. Among dead wood and other surface litter we frequently disturbed the Stripe-bellied Grass Snake *Psammophys subtaeniatus*, a handsome fast-moving brownish snake with cream stripes along its body.

The "mobbing" behaviour of small birds, especially weavers, often pinpointed snakes I would not otherwise have seen. Usually the snakes concerned were long, thin, dull tree-climbing snakes which I was never able to identify. (Sometimes, however, the focus of the commotion turned out to be an embarrassed-looking cat.)

I am most grateful to the Herpetology Section of the National Museums of Kenya for identifying even the most mangled specimens.

Jo Darlington, c/o Section of Entomology, National Museums of Kenya,
P.O. Box 40658, Nairobi.

BANANA DIHEDRALS: A THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

I remember the first occurrence well, chiefly because I didn't believe a word of it. We were in Saudi Arabia, in the middle 1970s, and we'd just come in from a hellish couple of weeks in what can only be described as a scorching sea of nothing, just like that first and most appalling chapter of *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, all over again. Coated in dust, dying for a drink, but in a town where there was only a third of wine, women and song, the only outlet for our stifled emotions had to be Mohamed Abdul. So, at least clean, and lubricated by myriad cups of syrupy sweet, ultimately milky - well - tea, we went down that evening to his concert. And as always on those steaming, Arabian nights we sat there, held in fascination of the great man, with the sweat falling, and the perfume rising. And all at once, a chorus of what seemed like a million, strident yet silky violins swelled into a sinuous, sensuous, insinuating melody of the East and, sure enough, there, coming from what seemed to be the bowels of the Earth, was a strangled, throaty wail that everyone knew was the maestro himself. And suddenly, a pounding, insistent beat, that gave us no alternative but to hitch our jelebas up to our knees, and to plunge into movements which, at their most inspired, were a horrible hybridisation of the Palais Glide and, as we had once been habituees of the Rocky Horror Picture Show, the Pelvic Thrust and the Timewalk.

Finally, aghast with exhaustion, but at least with our Terpsichorean tendencies temporarily terminated, we retreated to yet more steamy, syrupy tea and it was then, as we lay back dazed, and gazed at the desert sky, eminently visible above the city's glow, that I distinctly remember George giving me a befuddled, quizzical and mystified look and asking, in a tone only redolent of curiosity and confusion: "Do you find your bananas wilting in the middle of the day". Well it was always possible, despite the vendor's assurances that it would stop all radiation short of a nuclear attack, that George's admittedly fetching head dress had sprung a leak, that he was grilled up top, and that he'd have to go home. And so, with my most expressive Gallic shrug, I took another pull at my hookah and promptly forgot about his query.

But now however, sitting here at Atlas House, writing the bird atlas' text with what many can only summarise as *plus que un peu de savoir faire*, I am also prone to fits of *plus que un peu d'ennui, et - neno hilo lingine litaoka wapi?* Of course, I make much of such charming opening gambits as "this cheeky little fellow can be met within any dewy, early morning glade", and "its crimson wings, royally translucent in the lowering tropical sun", but with over a thousand species to talk about, the magnificent and well-tried stand-bys do wear a bit thin, and even Roget's *Thesaurus* pretends not to think about it, and I find myself, increasingly, staring out of the window for inspiration. And, to be fair, I do occasionally find it. Seasonal flocks of Bronze-naped Pigeons habituate a single tree which I must get round to identifying. Slender-billed Greebuls attack their reflections in the glass and are often announced by their rather garruluos chatter, and, in the same way that buses pass the door, aeroplanes, Booted and Ayres Eagles pass the roof.

And *roof* is the point, because I'm on the first floor and therefore opposite the waving fronds of two banana trees. In all sincerity, and in all contrast to much of the foregoing, the waving and rustling of the banana leaves, taken together with the dusk chirp of bulbuls, produce a beautifully peaceful and relaxing scene.

So I stare at the bananas (and, some would opine, go bananas), and all that I've seen up to now is a male Baglafecht (oh, alright, Reichenow's) Weaver, endlessly tearing off strips of the leaves for its nest. When I get up to that species, I'm really going to wax lyrical on that but, grappling with kingfishers and still many hundreds of birds away from that bright new day, I've seen something else: George was right - the banana leaves change shape!
More inspired scribes might visualise their nodding fronds as encouraging or possibly sagely admonishing fingers, but of course I would never be capable of that, and all I've noticed is that their cross-sectional shape varies throughout the day. Thus, in the first, early-morning-tea, light of dawn, the halves of the leaf on either side of the central stalk are at an obtuse angle of about 120° but as the morning progresses and the sun burns down, this angle lessens and becomes acute until finally, by mid-morning, the two sides of the leaf hang down vertically from the stalk, touching each other. Then as the afternoon wends on, they edge apart again until, near dusk, they're back out at 120° to each other again.

Old Kenya hands may know all about this of course, may even have banana leaf clocks for all I know, but can they tell me - *why*?

Delving back to whatever botanical knowledge I ever boasted, are the plant's cells full of fluid and turgid in the morning, so keeping the leaf outspread? And do they then loose fluid and become limp and flaccid, like the rest of us, during the heat of the day, so that the whole affair droops? And if this is the case, does this serve any useful purpose for the plant, such as minimising the incidence of the sun's rays on the leaves, and thus suppressing as far as possible overheating and water loss?

The Age of Amateur Enquiry is not dead though some might opine that it should be, so if anyone can give even the merest hint of a murmur of explanation, then at least I'll have something else to distract my mind from a thousand species accounts.

Adrian D. Lewis, Geology, Box 30197, Nairobi.

REVIEW

WHERE TO WATCH BIRDS IN KENYA. By Ray Moore, 1982. Nairobi: Transafrica Press. Hardback 8½ X 5½" pp. 229. Illustrated with 28 Photographs (5 colour and 24 black and white; 23 maps; 35 line drawings. Price at the Society Office (to members) KSh.150/-.

Recent articles appearing in the Bulletin, written by Adrian Lewis, have frequently referred to Ray Moore's book as a publication which would fill a large gap in the literature available to birdwatchers in Kenya. This sentiment is echoed by G.R. Cunningham-van Someren in his foreword to the book itself, and I have looked forward to the publication of this guide with interest. So, now that it is finally available, what is the verdict?

The simple answer is that it performs the function of its title well and the gap referred to above can be considered pretty well filled. The amount of work involved in researching and preparing the book must have been considerable, and Mr Moore is to be commended in this respect. My praise is not, however, without reservations and I have various criticisms to make later. However, let us first consider the book in some detail.

The author has divided Kenya into eight sections, which are then subdivided into areas of particular interest. There are 112 areas covered in all, ranging in size and detail from Saiwa Swamp National Park to the complete North Eastern Province.

For each area, details are given of how to reach the area; what the access roads are like; how long it takes to get there; what type of habitat(s) occur there; and generally which species of bird are most interesting or commonly to be found in that area. Following this narrative is a more complete list of the birds of the area (split into sub-locations where considered necessary), detailing birds which are either "resident", "passage" (palaearctic or intra-African migrants), or "breeding visitors". Further emphasis on specific species is indicated either by italics, denoting rare or locally distributed species, or by asterisks, denoting seasonal residents. The above information is generally very useful, and any queries arising can usually be answered by reference to the books listed by the author as "recommended reading".

Interspersed within the text are various photographs, sketch maps and line drawings. I found the quality of the photographs to be rather poor, particularly the last two black and white ones, which are so blurred as to be unrecognisable. Generally though, the photographs do give the reader a reasonable representation of the various habitats depicted. The sketch maps are useful in general terms, some being more detailed than others and obviously subject to change as time goes on. The line drawings, depicting various species of birds, are nicely executed and make interesting additions to the book.

The book is completed by the provision of suggested birdwatching routes; a recommended reading list; a list of East African ornithological societies and publications; a list of references; an index of places and routes; and blank pages for field notes.

A fairly comprehensive book on the face of it, so what are my criticisms? Basically, there are three.

Firstly, the number of misspellings, typing errors or misprints is fairly high and one is left with an impression of a lack of attention to detail either in the proof-reading or printing stages. Allied to this is the fact that some directions are not precise enough, and information about some areas is already slightly out of date.

Secondly, if you want to follow the recommendation made in the foreword of consulting this book in order to know where to find a specific species of bird, you cannot do this without checking all 112 area species lists, or by referring to other books first. This book tells you what you can expect to see if you decide to go to a particular place, but not where to go to see a particular

bird. I would have liked to have seen an index of bird species, so that if you particularly wanted to see, for example, a Red-headed Malimbe, you could quickly consult the index to see where this species might be found.

The third criticism, and in my opinion, the most important one, is the fact that the author uses the nomenclature of Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1957, 1960) for this book. There has been, and there still is, much discussion on the subject of splitting species, lumping races, and general name-changing in the ornithological world. Kenya is no exception, but I believe that most people here have now become familiar, for the most part, with the treatment given to the subject by *The Birds of East Africa* (Britton, 1980). I think, therefore, that many people, particularly recent arrivals and tourists, will find that if they are armed with, for example, a William's field guide and the EANHS *Check List of the Birds of Kenya* (based entirely on Britton, 1980), then many of the names in Ray Moore's book will be totally confusing.

I should mention that whilst in pursuit of a more recent identity for one particular bird I found what appears to be a complete error. Listed among the species to be found in Karen-Ololua Forest in Nairobi is a bird called Percival's Oriole. Research into this revealed that Percival's Oriole is a race of the bird now known as the Black-winged Oriole, which does not occur in Kenya at all. According to Britton (1980) its distribution in East Africa is restricted to Uganda.

So, to sum up, a book with an excellent concept, executed well in terms of the framework, but annoying in some of the detail. Despite my criticisms, I look on this book as a useful addition to my ornithological shelf.

P. Fletcher, Box 43675, Nairobi.

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THE KENYA BIRD ATLAS : THE RESULTS

Our Monday evening talk on 1 October, saw Adrian Lewis giving us the latest information on the present status of the Kenya Bird Atlas Project. The atlas now boasts a total of over 40 000 records from some 216 contributors which surely represents an enormous total of dedicated man hours. In addition to bird records per se, attention has also been focussed on breeding status and migratory patterns; this information combined with a complete bibliography of over 1000 references dating from as far back as 1930 will certainly form the most comprehensive account of Kenya ornithology ever attempted. Adrian took us through the grid square method and notation to be used in the final publication and introduced the computer analysis which will allow species distribution to be compared with altitude, vegetation pattern and Bailey's Moisture Index (a combination of rainfall and temperature) and thus present a more logical analysis of species distribution throughout the country. With other African countries adopting this same methodology, perhaps we can look forward to an "African Bird Atlas" at some time in the future!

The problems encountered in observing and recording the distribution of all bird species throughout Kenya are obvious when one considers the remoteness of many areas combined with a total number of 1061 recorded species. The reasons for such a prolific number of species is interesting especially when one considers the very small numbers of species endemic to Kenya. The over-riding factor, as Adrian explained, is the fact that the country is situated at the junction of a number of biogeographical sub-regions and displays a diverse variety of ecological habitats. This has permitted the spread of many species into the country, many of these being at the periphery of their overall range.

With the final date of submission for records being 31 December 1984, the

project enters the final and exciting stages leading up to publication and we wish Adrian and all his colleagues in the venture every success in putting the final touches to this mammoth undertaking.

Graham Reid, Zoology, Box 30197, Nairobi.

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BIRD WALK WITH A DIFFERENCE

On 26 September, 1984, birdwalkers were invited to the home of Mr and Mrs Pat Frere on Twiga Hill Road, Langata. The drought was still biting hard, and despite the ideal conditions provided by the Freres, birds were not abundant. However, 34 differnt birds were seen. The Freres have specialist feeding tables in different parts of their garden. There is one hidden in creepers on the side of a tree which is the 'cheese' tray, much appreciated by the Olive Thrush. There is another table quite high in another tree with sunflower seeds, that brings in the squirrels and Grosbeak Weavers. There is one in the safety of overhanging shrubs, but well off the ground, that the smaller birds frequent feeding on bread and millet. Pat also feeds Kites on scraps of meat at 5 every evening, and they start queueing up at 4 p.m. he says. For our special benefit he brought the feeding time forward, and we were able to marvel at the superb flight of this most agile of birds. All tastes were catered for.

Ruppel's Robin Chat, in the bushes, gave a fine rendering of his wide repertoire, though he fell down a bit on the call of the Red-chested Cuckoo; the last note came out distinctly off-key. Yvonne Malcolm-Coe was particularly delighted with his performance.

Pat is a very keen photographer and has created habitats to attract birds as well as providing a rich and varied diet. He has made a small pond, behind which he has dragged a dead tree, providing many suitable perches for any bird contemplating drinking or bathing - rocks attractively arranged with sedge and water plants complete the setting. He has also disguised a wheel-barrow to look like a bird paradise; it has a small pond, trailing plants and rocks, and this he wheels around to the various hides built in the garden from which he takes his splendid bird photographs, and if anyone would like to know more about Pat's photos; he can be contacted on tel.891 195 .

After a pleasant 'bird-stand', rather than a bird walk, the Freres very kindly gave us coffee and biscuits, in fact they treated us as well as they treat their birds, and to them both, many thanks for a lovely morning.

D. Brass.

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OUTDOOR ACTION - COURSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Outdoor Action courses have been designed primarily for young people. The main aims being to give them an opportunity to achieve a reasonable level of competence in a variey of outdoor activities and at the same time to develop self confidence and leadership qualities. The courses also will enable them to explore the more remote and beautiful areas of Kenya and lastly to learn how to work as a team in a variety of situations.

The first course, OAK 1, is an intensive course aimed at giving participants an opportunity to take part in a large number of activities in a short, eight day period. The programme will be located in the Rift Valley and the Loita Hills. It will include campcraft, bushcraft, navigation, orienteering, caving, sailing

and rock-climbing.

There will be very little free time on the course and participants will be expected to take part in all the programmed activities. A very rewarding if somewhat tiring eight days are guaranteed!

The course is open to boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 18. There are only a limited number of places on the course and all applications should reach Alan Dixson of Let's Go Travel by the middle of November. Application forms and further details should be obtained as soon as possible from Let's Go Travel, P.O. Box 60343, Nairobi. Telephone 29539 or 29540. The all inclusive cost of the course will be K.Sh.4100.

The course will be based at, and organised through Hillcrest Secondary School Ltd. It will be run by Andrew Wielochowski, a qualified mountaineering instructor, and Ian Munro, a Royal Yachting Association sailing instructor. Both have had wide experience of work in outdoor activities centres abroad and they have also run numerous successful trips for young people in East Africa. These include ascents of Batian on Mt. Kenya, of Kilimanjaro by the Heim Glacier, a traverse of the extensive lava tube caves in the Chyulu Hills and safaris to Turkana, Mt. Kulal and the Ndoto Mountains in the Northern Province.

All specialist equipment will be provided, i.e. climbing equipment, tents, stoves, boats, life jackets, maps and compasses. Participants will be expected to bring their own rucksack, sleeping bag or blanket, waterproof jacket and stout shoes. A limited amount of this equipment could be hired from Outdoor Action.

Because of the strenuous nature of most of the activities, participants should be fairly fit in order to appreciate the course fully.

Smoking and drinking of alcohol will not be permitted during the course and a high standard of behaviour will be expected at all times.

Course OAK 1 will take place from 11 to 18 December 1984.

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FINAL DATE FOR KENYA BIRD ATLAS RECORDS

WE ARE NOW WELL INTO THE COMPILATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL SPECIES ACCOUNTS THAT WILL ACCOMPANY AND AMPLIFY EACH OF THE ATLAS' MAPS. ADDITION OF NEW RECORDS TO THE SCHEME WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT, BECAUSE THESE MAY NECESSITATE REPEATED REWRITING OF AT LEAST PART OF THE TEXT. THUS THIS IS A BRIEF, BUT I HOPE NOTICED, NOTICE TO ALL KENYA BIRD ATLAS CONTRIBUTORS, THAT WE SHALL CEASE TO ACCEPT FURTHER RECORDS ON 1 JANUARY 1985.

A.D. Lewis, Geology, Box 30197, Nairobi.

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WANTED

Uganda in Black and White by Hugh Cott: *The indigenous tree species of the Ugandan Protectorate* by W.J. Eggeling & I.R. Dale; *Elephants and their habitats* by R.M. Laws , I.C.S. Parker & R.C.B. Johnstone.

Offers (not the books themselves) to D.E. Pomeroy, Department of Zoology, Makerere University, Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda.

SOCIETY FUNCTIONS

MONDAY 5th November, 1984: In the Museum Hall at 5.30 p.m. Paul Goriup, Assistant Director ICBP will talk on "Bustards, their ecology, behaviour and conservation - what do we know?"

MONDAY 19th November, 1984: In the Museum Hall at 5.30 p.m. A Film Evening. Title or titles to be arranged.

23rd - 25th November, 1984: Week-end trip to Fisherman's Camp on Lake Naivasha, a lovely spot for walking, birding and mucking about in boats (6 free rowing boats are available). Adrian Lewis has volunteered his services as "bird man" so we have the promise not only of observing 'wee brown jobs' but having them identified to boot. Accomodation is in Bandas which come in two flavours (Class 1 @ Sh.70/- pp/pn: Class 2 @ Sh.60/- pp/pn). In addition there is unlimited camping space @ Sh.20/- pp/pn. All prices subject to 20% discount for bona fide members. Further details and bookings through Dr Graham Reid, EANHS, Box 44486,Nairobi (please enclose stamped, addressed envelope). Please note that bookings for bandas will be on a first come first served basis.

Would members please fill in the enclosed slip concerning a proposed alteration in the time of Society meetings.

WEDNESDAY MORNING Bird walks continue led by Mrs Fleur Ng'weno. Please meet at the National Museum at 8.45 a.m. sharp.

INFORMAL "POT LUCK" outings are held on the second Sunday of each month. Please meet at the National Museum at 8.45 a.m. and be prepared for eventualities.

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THE KENYA "BIRDATHON"

Are you sponsoring a team in the Block Hotels 24 hour bird watch to be held on November 25th? The three teams, all members of this Society, competing against each other will attempt to break the World record for the number of birds seen during a 24 hour period.

If you have not already obtained a form put out by Block Hotels and available throughout Nairobi, please do so, and support a worthy charity namely, Gertrudes Garden Children's Hospital.

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May we wish all Members and friends a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

May we also suggest that you visit the Society office where you might well find a suitable gift for your friends.

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Again, may we appeal to members to contribute notes of their observations to the Editor for inclusion in forthcoming issues of the Bulletin.

THE EAST AFRICAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Chairman: Prof. J.O. Kokwaro
Vice-Chairman: Dr. A.D. Lewis
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Joint Library Sub-Committee: (Society representatives) Miss P. Allen & Mr. N. arap Chumo.
Nest Record Scheme Organiser: Mr. P.B. Taylor
Bulletin Editor: Mrs. D. Backhurst

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The Society publishes The Journal of the East African Natural History Society and National Museum. Each issue consists of one paper, however, sometimes two or more short papers may be combined to form one number. The aim of this method of presentation is to ensure prompt publication of scientific information; a title page is issued at the end of each year so that the year's papers may be bound together. Contributions, which should be typed in double spacing on one side of the paper, with wide margins, should be sent to the Secretary, Box 44486, Nairobi, Kenya. Authors receive twenty-five reprints of their article free, provided that these are ordered at the time the proofs are returned.

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SCOPUS

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